

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically controlling a networked environment comprising:

a setup step comprising:

capturing a face image of an individual,

5 storing the face image,

associating at least one appliance setup to the face

image,

and an initiating step comprising:

comparing the face image to stored face images,

10 retrieving the at least one appliance setup for a matched face image, and

initiating the at least one appliance setup,

wherein the initiating step further comprises:

15 associating the matched face image with a hierarchy of control over the at least one appliance setup,

determining if a second individual previously initiated the at least one appliance setup,

determining the hierarchy of control over the at least one appliance setup associated with the second individual, and

20 initiating the at least one appliance setup associated with the matched face image only if either no second individual

previously initiated the at least one appliance setup, if the
matched face image ranks higher within the hierarchy of control, or
based on a default or average setting if the matched face image and
25 the second individual have the same rank.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein a face recognition system performs the capturing and comparing steps.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one appliance setup further comprises a quantifiable term associated with at least one networked appliance.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the quantifiable term comprises a level, a temperature, a volume, a channel, a track of a recording, a period of time, a frequency, or period of time.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the setup step is performed upon request of the individual.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the initiating step is performed automatically.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the associating step further comprises inputting the at least one appliance setup

into a memory by typing on a keyboard, by speaking into a voice
recognition system, or by selecting the at least one personal
5 feature from a touch-sensitive screen.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one
appliance setup controls at least one illumination source, a
television, a stereo, a device for playing recorded music, a
microcomputer, a device for preparing food, or an interior climate
5 control device.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the associating
step further comprises selecting a specific feature of the at least
one appliance setup and the initiating step initiates the at least
one appliance setup according to the specific feature.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one
appliance setup comprises a message storage device and the
initiating step further comprises:

receiving an incoming message into a device for receiving
5 messages,

recording said message onto a recording medium
determining if the message is associated with the face
image

recalling the message associated with the face image, and

10 reciting the message associated with the face image
through a recitation means.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein the receiving,
recording, recalling, and reciting steps comprise:

 telephonic message receiving, recording, recalling, and
reciting and the recording medium records telephonic messages,

5 email message receiving, recording, recalling, and
reciting and the recording medium is a device for storing email,
 facsimile message receiving, recording, recalling, and
reciting and the recording medium records facsimile messages,
or some combination thereof.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further
comprises requesting a password be entered by the individual,
receiving said password, and verifying that the password matches a
preset password before storing the facial representation of the
5 individual.

14. (Cancelled).